

CLAIMS

1 1. A method comprising:
 2 enumerating plausible queries of a target database using
 3 query generation rules; and
 4 generating associated teasers for each of the enumerated
 5 queries using query-matching rules.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising storing the
 2 enumerated queries and their associated teasers in a lookup
 3 table.

1 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising:
 2 receiving a user query of the target database;
 3 determining whether the user query matches an enumerated
 4 query in the lookup table; and
 5 displaying the teaser associated with the enumerated
 6 query in response to determining.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the query generation rules
 2 are domain specific.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the query matching rules
 2 are domain specific.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein generating further
 2 comprises conflict resolution rules.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the target database resides
 2 on a server connected to the Internet.

1 8. A computer program stored on a computer-readable medium,
2 the computer program comprising instructions that cause a
3 computer to:

4 enumerate plausible queries of a target database using
5 query generation rules; and

6 generate associated teasers for each of the enumerated
7 queries using query matching rules.

1 9. A method comprising:

2 identifying queries that match elements in a target
3 database;

4 receiving a user query;

5 determining if the user query matches one of the
6 identified queries; and

7 if the user query matches one of the identified queries,
8 providing target database information to a user that relates
9 to the user query.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the database resides on a
2 server.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the server resides in a
2 network.

1 12. The method of claim 9 wherein identifying comprises:

2 applying query-generation rules to the target database;

3 applying query-matching rules to each of the queries to

4 generate associated teasers; and

5 building a mapping from the queries to their associated
6 teasers.

1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein building the mapping
2 comprises storing the queries and associated teasers in a hash
3 table.

1 14. The method of claim 12 wherein building the mapping
2 comprises storing the queries and associated teasers in a
3 cache.

1 15. The method of claim 12 wherein building the mapping
2 comprises storing the queries and associated teasers in a trie
3 data structure.

1 16. A method comprises:
2 pre-processing a target database;
3 building a mapping from selected queries to associated
4 teasers for the target database;
5 receiving a user query for the target database; and
6 returning an associated teaser if the user query matches
7 one of the selected queries.

1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein pre-processing comprises:
2 identifying selected queries in conjunction with query-
3 generation rules; and
4 generating an associated teaser for each of the selected
5 queries in conjunction with query-matching rules.

1 18. The method of claim 16 wherein building a mapping
2 comprises storing each of the selected queries with the
3 associated teaser.

1 19. The method of claim 18 wherein storing comprises placing
2 each of the selected queries with associated teaser in a trie
3 data structure.

1 20. The method of claim 18 wherein storing comprises placing
2 each of the selected queries with associated teaser in a hash
3 table.

1 21. The method of claim 18 wherein storing comprises placing
2 each of the selected queries with associated teaser in a
3 cache.

1 22. The method of claim 18 wherein storing comprises placing
2 each of the selected queries with associated teaser in a
3 lookup table.

1 23. The method of claim 16 further comprising displaying the
2 associated teaser.

1 24. A computer program stored on a computer-readable medium,
2 the computer program comprising instructions that cause a
3 computer to:

4 identify queries that match elements in a target
5 database;
6 receive a user query;

7 determine if the user query matches one of the identified
8 queries; and

9 provide target database information to a user that
10 relates to the user query if the user query matches one of the
11 identified queries.

1 25. The computer program of claim 24 wherein the instruction
2 to identify comprises instructions to cause the computer
3 to:

4 apply query-generation rules;

5 apply query-matching rules to each of the queries to
6 generate associated teasers; and

7 build a mapping from the queries to the associated
8 teasers.

1 26. A computer program stored on a computer-readable medium,
2 the computer program comprising instructions that cause a
3 computer to:

4 pre-process a target database;

5 build a mapping from selected queries to associated
6 teasers for the target database;

7 receive a user query for the target database; and

8 return an associated teaser if the user query matches one
9 of the selected queries.

1 27. An apparatus comprising:

2 a memory that stores executable instructions; and

3 a processor that executes the instructions to:

4 pre-process a target database;

